INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1198 — Washington, D. C. — August 21, 1948

Excessive Rain Seriously Damages Eastern Tomato Crop

Although heavy rains in May and early June apparently held back development of tomato plants in the Tri-State area, as well as Virginia and Pennsylvania, and although tomato blight was reported in a number of these areas in early June, dry, warm weather during late June and July improved crop conditions appreciably in all of these areas. Crop prospects looked to be quite favorable the last week in July.

However, excessive rains in early August, which in some areas amounted to as much as 10 inches, accompanied by continual showers and below-normal temperatures, have seriously damaged the tomato crop in this eastern section. Tomato blight has continued to develop in some of the areas receiving excessive rainfall, and Septoria blight and early blight have also caused extensive damage on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Eastern Shore of Maryland, and Delaware. In addition to damage from disease, extensive water damage has occurred, and, as of August 19, it looked as though the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Delaware and Maryland would produce only about 30 percent of a normal crop. *(Please turn to page 298)*

N. C. A. ATTORNEYS SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND TWO SUITS ALLEGING PROLONGED ILLNESSES DUE TO CANNED FOODS

The Association's Claims Division announces the successful outcome of two long-drawn-out cases wherein thorough investigation and vigorous defense by the Association's attorneys—together with the cooperation and assistance of the Division's personnel, as well as the canners whose products were involved—resulted in complete exoneration of the implicated products. In each case, plaintiffs had brought suit for large sums of money as damages.

Action in the first case was commenced against a wholesaler and retailer in December, 1941, when an Ohio claimant alleged a serious and prolonged illness attributed to canned peas. Association attorneys were successful in having the wholesaler eliminated from the case due to lack of jurisdiction, but the case against the retailer proceeded to trial last February.

Testimony showing the care and precautions exercised by the canner in packing the product was introduced in the defendant's behalf, and the two-day trial was hotly contested by both sides. The trial judge concluded that the plaintiff's testimony failed to establish that the peas were unwholesome and responsible for the alleged illness, and directed the jury to render its verdict for the defendant. Accordingly, there was a judgment for the defendant.

The plaintiff appealed from this decision a short time later, and, after submission of briefs for both parties, the appeal was duly argued. The appellate court recently handed down a written opinion affirming the decision of the trial court. This concluded the case. Although plaintiff's counsel threatened to carry the case to the Ohio Supreme Court, he did not do so.

The second case involved canned soup, and was based on alleged extensive illness of a Florida woman, who brought suit in May, 1942, for a large sum against a retailer, whose defense was handled by the Association's attorneys in the Florida city where the action was commenced. To support her claim, the lady contended that she

Agreement on Cuban Sugar Assures Supply through 1948

Ample supplies of sugar for the United States and protection against an abnormal carryover of sugar in Cuba at the end of 1948 are assured by an agreement reached between representatives of the Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute and the Commodity Credit Corporation on August 11, 1948, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

In addition to making supplies available for filling Cuba's present quota of approximately 2,822,000 short tons for shipment to the United States during 1948, the Institute will maintain a reserve of 466,000 tons to meet possible further increases in Cuba's quota for shipment to the United States during 1948. The Commodity

(Please turn to page 299)

VA SEEKS BIDS ON PEAS; ARMY TO CONSIDER 1947 PACK

QMC Announces It Will Accept Bids on Last Year's Pea Pack

For the first time this year, the Army QMC has announced that it will consider bids on canned peas produced from the 1947 crop.

Although 1948 peas are requested, Invitation No. QM-11-183-49-110 notes that bids on 1947 peas will be considered on domestic requirements, which will be purchased f.o.b. the following:

	Doz. No. 10	or Doz. No. 2	and Doz. No. 2
Atlanta, Ga.	10,476	55,000	42,154
Columbus, Ohio.	7,738	59,000	6,642
Belle Bluff, Va.	7,492	30,334	4,734

Bids submitted under this invitation are to be opened at the Chicago QMC Purchasing Office on August 25.

VA Readvertising for Bids Because of Lack of Response

Because no response was received from any canner on the opening of bids for canned peas July 28, the Veterans Administration is readvertising for its requirements for canned peas produced from the 1948 crop.

The Veterans Administration is responsible for the care and treatment of veterans admitted to its hospitals. With this in mind, the Chief of the VA Procurement Division has appealed to canners to submit bids supplying canned pea requirements.

VA canned pea requirements are 24,403 dozen No. 2 and 4,583 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids on these or partial quantities are to be opened August 26.

fed some of the suspected product to her dog, who "almost died."

The investigation was not very productive, owing to the lack of cooperation of the claimant's attorney. However, the strongest possible defense was prepared, and the matter went to trial in July, 1942. This involved primarily a legal principle, and the court ruled in favor of the defendant retailer. The plaintiff was granted leave to amend her declaration, and the question was argued again in November, 1942, whereupon the court again held in the retailer's favor and judgment was entered accordingly.

At the time, it was thought that the matter was concluded. However, in December, 1944, when the limitations of actions statute was just about to bar any further claim, a new action was filed, this time against the canner in his home territory. The Claims Division resumed the defense and referred the matter to experienced attorneys in the canner's city. Defense preparations then involved a protracted exchange of correspondence among the various parties concerned, including the Association's Florida attorneys, who collaborated with those actively handling the defense of the second suit. The Association also employed even a third attorney in another southern state in an effort to gain information which might be available from the veterinarian who was said to have treated the plaintiff's dog.

Throughout the pendency of the second suit, plaintiff's attorneys pressed hard for a settlement. The demand was quite substantial at first, but although the asking figure gradually dwindled to a nominal amount, the canner's answer always was "no". Finally, the opposing attorney withdrew, and the case was dismissed recently without the necessity of a trial.

RAW PRODUCTS

Farm Real Estate Values

The United States index for farm real estate values reached a new peak of 174 (1912-14 = 100) on July 1, according to a report issued August 20 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture. The estimated value per acre of farm land, including improvements, was 2 percent above March and 7 percent above a year earlier. Copies of the report are available from BAE.

Potato Price Support Program

A potato loan program for producers and dealers, covering 1948 late-crop Irish potatoes, was announced August 18 by the Department of Agriculture.

Secretary Charles F. Brannan, in supplying background information on the potato support program recently for the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, stated:

"The Department recovers only a small fraction of its total cost in disposing of surplus potatoes to manufacturing, feed, or export outlets. If the surplus becomes too great to be utilized by available outlets, as occurred in 1946, the only recourse is to dump the potatoes. Generally speaking, dumping would be the most economic disposition of surplus potatoes, from a dollar and cents standpoint, since the cost of sacking, grading, loading and freight would not be incurred."

Secretary Brannan said that net losses to the Department for the price support program on potatoes for the last several years have been:

Crop Year	*Net Loss*
1943	$21,650,000
1944	3,346,000
1945	14,681,000
1946	90,963,000
1947	39,529,000

Eastern Tomato Crop

(Concluded from page 297)

Weather conditions in northwestern Maryland and south central Pennsylvania were more favorable. This is a comparatively small area and was not in the heavy rainfall belt. Crops in this section appear normal.

Crop conditions in New Jersey and eastern and southeastern Pennsylvania have likewise deteriorated seriously in the past several weeks. These areas did not receive quite as much rainfall as the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, but tomato blight is sufficiently widespread now so that if cool wet weather continues during the next several weeks, unsprayed tomato fields will suffer extremely heavy losses.

It is interesting to note that in spite of continued rain, those growers who practiced disease control program with high pressure spraying equipment have kept down tomato disease to a negligible point. As of August 19, it looked as though New Jersey and Pennsylvania will have about 65 percent of a normal crop.

Invitations to Bid

QMC Offices—Quartermaster Corps, 111 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.; Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Ill.; Western Branch, Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office, Oakland Army Base, Oakland 14, Calif.

Veterans Administration—Procurement Division, Veterans Administration Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act will apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is $10,000 or over.

The Army has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

EVAPORATED MILK—12,000 cases of 12½-oz. cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-74 by Aug. 23.

CANNED PEAS—180,344 dozen No. 2 and 92,924 dozen No. 10 cans; bids on domestic requirements will be accepted on peas produced from the 1947 crop. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-110 by Aug. 25.

CANNED PEAS—7,125 dozen No. 10 cans, only of peas produced from 1948 pack. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-119 by Aug. 25.

CANNED PEACHES — 224,768 dozen No. 2½ and 63,946 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-27 by Aug. 25.

CANNED PEACHES—41,770 dozen No. 2½ and 45,465 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-28 by Aug. 25.

CANNED APRICOTS—5,240 dozen No. 2½ and 6,449 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-45 by Aug. 26.

CANNED APRICOTS—60,858 dozen No. 2½ and 51,618 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-46 by Aug. 26.

CANNED SARDINES—22,500 cases of "quarter oil" size cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-111 by Aug. 26.

EVAPORATED MILK—1,655 cases of 14½-oz. cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-100 by Aug. 27.

FRUIT COCKTAIL—304,752 dozen No. 2½ and 91,641 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-19 by Aug. 31.

FRUIT COCKTAIL—47,930 dozen No. 2½ and 52,197 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-20 by Aug. 31.

FRUIT COCKTAIL—416 dozen No. 2½ and 2,500 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-21 by Aug. 31.

EVAPORATED MILK—72,446 cases of 14½-oz. cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-117 by Sept. 2.

CANNED BEETS—56,064 dozen No. 2 and 7,243 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-127 by Sept. 1.

The Veterans Administration has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

CANNED PEAS—24,403 dozen No. 2 and 4,583 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due under Invitation No. 43-S by Aug. 26.

CANNED LIMA BEANS—41,406 dozen No. 2 and 7,776 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due under Invitation No. 44-S by Sept. 1.

Army Contract Awards

The following contract awards for canned foods have been announced:

Canned Apricots

(Awarded by Oakland, Bid No. QM-04-493-49-8)

Quantity (doz.)	Price	F.O.B. Point
1,100 No. 10 (d)	$8.75	Watsonville, Calif.
2,500 No. 2½ (d)	2.575	Modesto, Calif.
1,000 No. 10 (d)	8.93	Richmond, Calif.
250 No. 10 (d)	8.20	Decoto, Calif.
1,350 No. 2½ (d)	2.375	Decoto, Calif.
4,920 No. 2½ (d)	2.40	Sacramento, Calif.
866 No. 10 (d)	8.40	Sacramento, Calif.
2,134 No. 10 (e)	8.8065	Sacramento, Calif.

Canned Apricots

(Awarded by Oakland, Bid No. QM-04-493-48-190)

Quantity (doz.)	Price	F.O.B. Point
655 No. 10 (d)	$9.59	San Antonio, Tex.
23,000 No. 2½ (e)	3.04	New Cumberland, Pa.
1,567 No. 10 (e)	10.10	Memphis, Tenn.
12,000 No. 2½ (e)	3.00	New Cumberland, Pa.
3,000 No. 2½ (e)	2.92	Memphis, Tenn.
1,118 No. 10 (d)	9.12	So. Schenectady, N. Y.
13,520 No. 2½ (d)	2.825	Army Depot, Ga.
1,052 No. 10 (d)	10.00	Columbus, Ohio
12,222 No. 2½ (d)	2.90	Belle Bluff, Va.
5,000 No. 2½ (e)	3.1083	New Cumberland, Pa.
1,542 No. 10 (d)	9.87	Army Depot, Ga.
1,101 No. 10 (d)	10.092	Belle Bluff, Va.
5,000 No. 2½ (e)	3.1422	New Cumberland, Pa.
16,000 No. 2½ (e)	2.863	New Cumberland, Pa.
21,444 No. 2½ (e)	3.11717	New Cumberland, Pa.
7,156 No. 2½ (e)	3.02375	Memphis, Tenn.
1,872 No. 10 (e)	9.7584	Auburn, Wash.
1,795 No. 10 (e)	9.2965	Mira Loma, Calif.

Canned Peas

(Awarded by Chicago, Bid No. QM-11-183-49-4)

Quantity (doz.)	Price	F.O.B. Point
41,622 No. 2 (d)	$1.30	San Antonio, Tex.
34,266 No. 2 (d)	1.25	Lyoth, Calif.

Canned Sweetpotatoes

(Awarded by Chicago, Bid No. QM-11-182-49-36)

Quantity (doz.)	Price	F.O.B. Point
58,000 No. 2½ (e)	$ .99	*Andersonville, Ga.

Canned RSP Cherries

(Awarded by Chicago, Bid No. QM-11-183-49-41)

Quantity (doz.)	Price	F.O.B. Point
10,807 No. 2 (d)	$2.51	Columbus, Ohio

(d) domestic; (e) export; * Canner's plant.

PUBLICITY

Local Publicity Being Given To Low Canned Foods Prices

Publicity to the effect that canned foods prices are not contributing to the high cost of living is being disseminated in local canning areas, according to reports to the Association from certain N.C.A. members who placed before their local editors the facts presented in the July 31 issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

In last week's LETTER the publisher's editorial in the Hoopeston, Ill., *Chronicle-Herald* was mentioned. Since that time another instance of local use of the Association's findings on this situation has been reported.

William H. Ritter, Jr., President of the P. J. Ritter Company, Bridgeton, N. J., used the material in a speech in a Lions Club dinner which was reported in two columns of the Bridgeton *Evening News* of August 11. The paper stated that:

"Mr. Ritter's subject was 'Foods'. He pointed out that canned foods had gone up in price less than other foods, and stated that people are eating about 15 percent more than they were before the war. 'Canned foods are undeniably our biggest bargains in groceries,' he said.

"The census show that canned foods for daily living range about $1.57 per person whereas other foods are in the neighborhood of $2.14. It seems to me, even as a consumer like you, that canned foods are the biggest bargain."

Agreement on Cuban Sugar

(Concluded from page 297)

Credit Corporation has increased its purchases from the reserve supply by 238,000 tons, under the Agreement entered into on April 7, 1948, for use primarily by the Army for civilian feeding in occupied areas. Such sugar, however, will be released to the Institute if needed for domestic consumption in the United States. The Institute will be free to dispose of the remaining reserve supply, 228,000 tons, if Cuba's 1948 import quota is not increased by October 15. The price paid by the Commodity Credit Corporation for sugar acquired by it from this reserve supply is 4 cents per pound.

The Institute also has agreed to make 170,000 tons of sugar available if needed for shipment to the United States during the first half of January, 1949.

In arriving at this agreement, representatives of the Institute and the Commodity Credit Corporation recognized that it is impossible to determine at this time the exact quantities of sugar that will be required in the United States from Cuba during 1948. Both agencies consider the filling of United States' needs to be the first requirement in dealing with remaining supplies. On the other hand, Cuba wishes to avoid any abnormal carryover of 1948-crop sugar for sale in competition with the 1949 crop, and, if necessary, in order to fill January shipping requirements, will start its 1949 harvest season in December.

PERSONNEL

"Herb" Krimendahl Elected President Stokely-Van Camp

H. F. ("Herb") Krimendahl, former president of the National Canners Association, and currently a member of the N.C.A. Administrative Council, has been elected president of Stokely-Van Camp, Inc., succeeding William B. Stokely, Jr., who assumes the newly created office of chairman of the board, it was announced this week.

Since December, 1947, Mr. Krimendahl has been executive vice-president and a director of Stokely. His association with that organization goes back to 1944 when Stokely acquired the business and assets of Crampton Canneries, Inc., Celina, Ohio, of which company Mr. Krimendahl had served as president since 1921. He has been engaged in the canning business almost continuously since 1919.

During World War II, Mr. Krimendahl served in Washington with the War Production Board as Administrator of Tin Conservation Order M-81, and as a consultant to the canned foods section of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Krimendahl always has been a leader in both national and state association affairs. He is a former Director and is now a member of the Buildings Committee. During his past service to N.C.A., he has been on numerous committees, holding the chairmanship of many of these. These include Statistics, Finance, Legislation, Labeling, Home Economics, and Simplification of Containers. Also, he is a past president of the Ohio Canners Association.

Dr. Cardon Heads ARA

Dr. Philip V. Cardon was named by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan on August 13 to head the Agricultural Research Administration, succeeding Dr. W. V. Lambert, who has resigned to become dean of the Nebraska College of Agriculture and director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Byron T. Shaw was appointed Deputy Administrator of the ARA.

In announcing the new appointments, Secretary Brannan pointed out that the ARA is the largest civilian research organization in the world. It was cited in the report of the President's Scientific Research Board for its planning and conduct of research and also for its effective cooperative relationships with agricultural experiment stations in all 48 States.

Forthcoming Meetings

August 27—California Olive Association, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif.

September 14-15—National Canners Association, Western Branch, Southern California Fish Canning Industry Plant Sanitation Conference, Cannery Workers Union Hall, Terminal Island, Calif.

September 20-22—American Meat Institute, Annual Convention, Waldorf-Astoria, New York, N. Y.

October 5-7 — Industrial Packaging Engineers Association, 3rd Annual Industrial Packaging and Materials Handling Exhibition, Sherman Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

October 12-13—Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute, 16th Annual Meeting, Hotel Roosevelt, New York, N. Y.

October 14-16—Florida Canners Association, 17th Annual Meeting, Soreno Hotel, St. Petersburg, Fla.

October 21-23—Texas Canners Association, Annual Convention, Gran Hotel Ancira, Monterrey, Mexico.

October 27—National Pickle Packers Association, Annual Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

November 4-5—Ozark Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

November 8-9 — Wisconsin Canners Association, Annual Convention, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.

November 10-12—National Canners Association, Board of Directors and Administrative Council, Fall Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill.

November 15-16—Illinois Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Chicago, Ill.

November 15-17—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Annual Meeting, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, N. Y.

November 18-19—Indiana Canners Association, Fall Convention, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.

November 22-23—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Annual Convention, Hotel Savery, Des Moines, Iowa

November 22-23—Tri-State Packers Association, Fall Convention, Hotel Traymore, Atlantic City, N. J.

November 30-December 1 — Pennsylvania Canners Association, 34th Annual Convention, Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa.

December 6-8—New Jersey State Horticultural Society, Annual Meeting, Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

December 7-9—Michigan State Horticultural Meeting, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mich.

December 9-10—Association of New York State Canners, Inc., 63rd Annual Meeting, Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.

December 10—Michigan Canners Association, Winter Meeting, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids, Mich.

December 14-15—Ohio Canners Association, Annual Meeting, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

December 16—Minnesota Canners Association, Annual Convention, Hotel Radisson, Minneapolis, Minn.

January 6-7—Northwest Canners Association, 1949 Annual Meeting, Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Wash.

January 11-14 — National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, 1949 Convention, Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 14-20—National Canners Association, 42nd Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 15-19—Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Annual Exhibit, Convention Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.

Illinois Sweet Corn Festival

The National Sweet Corn Festival, sponsored by the Hoopeston Junior Chamber of Commerce, will be held in Hoopeston, September 23-25.

A huge program of entertainment has been arranged. On the festival grounds, exhibitions of canned foods, canning and farming equipment, and other items of interest to growers, buyers, and consumers of corn will be seen.

Duraglas Center Opened

The Owens-Illinois Glass Co. has announced the opening of its Duraglas Center, a new structure in Toledo designed to facilitate design of the best glass containers, closures and cartons, to determine the most efficient means of using them, and most effectively to support a broad market development effort for customers.

The Duraglas Center includes facilities for packaging research, design, quality control, engineering and customers' plant layout work, consumer and market research and surveys, merchandising aids, and advertising, all of which are intended "to promote efficient, economical use of Duraglas Packages," according to an announcement by Owens-Illinois.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Claims

N.C.A. attorneys successfully defend two suits alleging prolonged illnesses due to canned foods 297

Raw Products

Excessive rain seriously damages eastern tomato crop 297
Farm real estate values 298
Potato price support program ... 298

Procurement

VA seeks bids on peas; Army to consider 1947 pack 297
Invitations to bid 298
Army contract awards 299

PAGE

Supplies

Agreement on Cuban sugar assures supply through 1948 297

Publicity

Local publicity being given to low canned foods prices 299

Personnel

"Herb" Krimendahl elected president of Stokely 299
Dr. Cardon heads ARA 300

Meetings

Forthcoming meetings 300
Illinois sweet corn festival 300
Duraglas center opened 300